

Award recognizes GPS team for saving \$66 million

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PETERSON AFB, Colo. – A Global Positioning System equipment team headquartered at Los Angeles AFB, Space and Missile Systems Center won a \$66 million award recently.

Rather, that's how much money they saved by enabling GPS platforms to remain available and reliable to warfighters entrenched in the war on terrorism.

For their efforts, the Global Positioning System User Equipment Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages Team was named one of five winners of the 2002 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award, given by the Air Force Association.

"I couldn't be more proud of the work and effort shown by the teams that are here today," said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, during the awards presentation held at the recent AFA convention.

A total of 21 teams, representing all major commands, Air Force Reserve and

Air National Guard, were nominated for this year's award, which recognizes outstanding team performance and promotes systematic process improvement. The award also serves as a forum to share best practices within the Air Force.

"To even compete as an AFSPC representative was an honor. To be selected as the best was simply icing on the cake," said Col. Douglas Loverro, system program director for the Navstar GPS Joint Program Office.

The GPS team, comprised of members from Georgia to California, used existing guidance from the Department of Defense and Air Force Materiel Command to develop their plan of attack for extending and improving the life of GPS user equipment.

After meticulous planning and evaluation, the team found a way to reduce the number of essential parts, used for receipt and processing of GPS signals to weapon system platforms, from becoming obsolete.

Their efforts ensured the readiness and availability for hundreds of GPS

platforms—including aircraft, tanks, ships, and handheld units—were not lost for use by U.S. joint forces in the war against terrorism.

GPS experienced no loss of mission capability due to obsolete parts.

"The team demonstrated true excellence in the management of aging GPS avionics systems, assuring this capability for our joint warfighters well into the future," Loverro said. "They are truly, and now recognized as, the best team in the Air Force."

The four other 2002 award winners are:

- F-15 Wing Shop Lean Depot Repair Team, Warner-Robins AFB, Ga.

- Combat Intelligence Center Battle Management System Team, 48th Operational Support Squadron, Royal Air Force, Lakenheath, England.

- Air Force Flight Test Center Base Energy Team, 95th Civil Engineer Group, Edwards AFB, Calif.

- C-17 Electronic Testing and Evaluation of Student Training Team, 437th Logistics Group, Charleston AFB, S.C.